REMARKS

Claims 12-18 and 20-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 19 is canceled and claims 12-18, 20-25, 27 and 28 are amended. Attached is a marked up version of the changes to the claims by the current Amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance, for the reasons set forth below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for an appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the amendment merely clarifies a previously claimed feature relating to the recycling certificate. Entry is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

The Office Action objects to claims 17 and 19 because of informalities. Due to a clerical error, the preamble of claim 17 was missing from the December 30 Amendment and claim 19 is repeated twice. As such, the preamble of claim 17 is reinserted by this Amendment. No new matter is added. Additionally, claim 19 (both occurrences) is deleted. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 13-16, 19-22 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being described in the specification to reasonably convey that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the

Office Action asserts that new matter was introduced into the claims, such as "extracting the recycling product as a non-recycling product" and "indicating the recycling product as a non-recycling product". Applicants believe that the Office Action is asserting that "non-recycling product" constitutes the alleged new matter. In order to further prosecution, the recitation of "as a non-recycling product" is deleted from the claims and the claims are amended to recite "extracting information relating to the recycling product" and/or similar features. It is respectfully submitted that the features of these claims are supported at least by page 6, lines 19-26 and page 37, lines 18-17 (represented in Fig. 10) of the present specification. Thus, the specification provides an adequate written description of the subject matter of claims 13-16, 19-22 and 25-28. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendment to claim 17 obviates the grounds for rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 12, 17-18 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 5,965,858 to Suzuki et al. (hereafter Suzuki). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 12 recites transmitting sales information including identifying information of the recycling product and the processing fee of the recycling product, the recycling certificate sales system managing a recycling

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certificate having the identifying information of the recycling product, <u>and the recycling certificate identifying information of the recycling product and the processing fee which represents a purchase of recycling services</u>. Independent claim 12 also recites calculating a receiving fee when the recycling certificate management system receives the take-over information and the receiving information is recorded in the database. Independent claim 12 further recites reading the identifying information from the recycling certificate when the recycling organization receives the recycling product from the product distributing organization. Independent claim 12 also recites transmitting incoming product information indicating that the recycling organization receives the recycling product containing the read identifying information, and calculating a product distributing fee for the product distributing organization by the recycling certificate management system when the recycling certificate management system receives the incoming product information and the take-over information is recorded in the database. Independent claim 12 recites other features, which have not been explicated described above.

For example, the present specification describes the use of a recycling certificate having identifying information of the recycling product where the processing fee of the recycling certificate represents a purchase of recycling services. The present specification describes a methodology to settle accounts relating to issues of recycling by use of the recycling certificate identifying information of a recycling product and the processing fee which represents a

purchase of recycling services. Based on the recycle certificate information, the receiving fee, the distributing fee and the processing fee required for the product recycle are paid to respective organizations involved in the recycling process. See page 6, lines 13-18 and page 6, line 17 to page 7, line 26 of the present specification, for example.

In contrast, Suzuki does not relate to settling accounts of a used product when it is recycled as in the present specification. Suzuki merely relates to a recycling process. Suzuki includes an input unit for inputting information concerning an article. Suzuki also discloses a recycle processing method deciding processor for <u>deciding a recycle processing</u> for the article <u>in accordance with recycling rules</u> determined previously by referencing the information for the reuse <u>on the basis of the information concerning the article input through the input unit</u>. See the Abstract, lines 5-14. Suzuki does not utilize a recycling certificate identifying information of the recycling product and <u>the processing fee which represents a purchase of recycling services</u>. Suzuki does not relate to the prepurchase of recycling services. Additionally, Suzuki does not relate to the distribution of a recycling certificate to different entities of a recycling processing so as to calculate a product distributing fee and other fees. Therefore, Suzuki does not teach or suggest at least the numerous features relating to the recycling certificate as well as to calculating the receiving fee and calculating the product distributing fee as recited in independent claim 12. Suzuki also does not teach or suggest the recycling certificate identifying information of the recycling product and the processing fee which represents a

purchase of the recycling services as recited in independent claim 12. Accordingly, independent claim 12 defines patentable subject matter.

Each of independent claim 17 and 23 defines patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons as independent claim 12. For example, independent claim 17 recites a processing unit for calculating a recycling fee based on the computer program for a processing carried out by the first and second recycling processing organizations in accordance with a recycling certificate having the identifying information and a processing content which represents a purchase of recycling services, and for processing information of settling accounts relating to the calculated recycling fee. Further, independent claim 23 recites calculating a recycling fee for a processing carried out by the first and second recycling processing organizations based on a recycle certificate having the identifying information and a processing content which represents a purchase of recycling services, and processing information of settling accounts related to the calculated recycling fee. Suzuki does not teach or suggest these respective features of independent claims 17 and 23. Accordingly, each of independent claims 17 and 23 defines patentable subject matter.

Claims 13-16 depend from claim 12, claims 18 and 20-22 depend from claim 17 and claims 24-28 depend from claim 23 and therefore patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims also recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-18 and 20-28 are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION OF MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 12, 13, 15-19, 22-25 and 28 have been amended as follows:

12.   (Amended)   A method of settling accounts to a processing fee expended on processes related to recycling a used product, comprising:

transmitting, from a recycling certificate sales system through a network to a recycling certificate management system, sales information including identifying information of the recycling product and the a processing fee of the recycling product, the recycling certificate sales system managing a recycling certificate having the identifying information of the recycling product, and the recycling certificate identifying information of the recycling product and the processing fee which represents a purchase of recycling services, and the recycling certificate management system managing a processing state of the recycling product;

reading, by a receiving organization server managed by a receiving organization, the identifying information from the recycling certificate when the receiving organization receives the recycling product from a discharger;

transmitting, from the receiving organization server through the network to the recycling certificate management system, receiving information indicating that the receiving organization received the recycling product containing the read identifying information;

recording the receiving information in a database in the recycling certificate

management system;

reading the identifying information from the recycling certificate by a product

distributing organization server managed by a product distributing organization when

the product distributing organization carrying the recycling product to the recycling

organization receives the recycling product from the receiving organization;

transmitting, from the product distributing organization to the recycling

certificate management system, take-over information indicating that the product

distributing organization received the recycling product containing the read

identifying information;

calculating a receiving fee accrued at the receiving organization by the

recycling certificate management system when the recycling certificate management

system receives the take-over information and the receiving information is recorded

in the database;

recording the take-over information in the database;

reading the identifying information from the recycling certificate by the

recycling organization server managed by the recycling organization when the

recycling organization receives the recycling product from the product distributing

organization;

transmitting, from the recycling organization server to the recycling certificate management system, incoming product information indicating that the recycling organization receives the recycling product containing the read identifying information; and

calculating a product distributing fee for the product distributing organization by the recycling certificate management system when the recycling certificate management system receives the incoming product information and the take-over information is recorded in the database.

13.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 12, further comprising extracting information related to the recycling product as a non-recycling product when a predetermined time period is over for recycling the recycling product.

14.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 13, wherein the extracting of information related to the recycling product is carried out using the receiving information and a first received date contained in the take-over information.

15.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 14, wherein the extracting information of the recycling product carries out an extraction of the information related to the recycling product as a non-recycling product when the recycling certificate management system does not receive the take-over information even

though the predetermined time period is over a first receiving date of the recycling product, contained in the receiving information.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the extracting information of the recycling product carries out an extraction of the information of the recycling product ~~as a non-recycling product~~ when the recycling certificate management system does not receive the incoming product information even though the predetermined time period is over a second received date of the recycling product contained in the take-over information.

17. (Amended) A recycling certificate system connected to a plurality of recycling processing computers through a network, for calculating a processing fee expended on processes related to recycling a used product, comprising:

a communication unit, connected to the network, for receiving information indicating that a second recycling organization manages the recycling product moving from a first recycling processing organization to a second recycling processing organization for processing the recycling product following the first recycling processing organization and the second recycling processing organization managing a second recycling processing computer from a first recycling processing computer, among the plurality of recycling processing computers receiving the recycling product containing identifying information for identifying the recycling product;

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a storage unit storing a computer program; and

a processing unit, connected to the communication unit and the storage unit, for calculating a recycling fee based on the computer program for a processing carried out by the first and second recycling processing ~~organization~~ organizations in accordance with a recycling certificate having the identifying information and a processing content ~~by the first recycling processing organization~~ which represents a purchase of recycling services, and for processing information of settling accounts relating to the calculated recycling fee.

18.   (Amended)   The system according to claim 17, wherein the communication unit is connected, through the network, with a sales organization server managed by a sales organization for selling ~~a~~ the recycling certificate storing the identifying information attached to the recycling product, to receive the identifying information and fee information indicating a recycling processing fee of the recycling product transmitted from the sales organization server, the processing unit calculating the recycling fee based on the fee information.

20.   (Amended)   The system according to claim ~~19~~ 17, wherein the processing unit notifies a discharger through the communication unit such that the ~~indicated~~ recycling product is not recycled when ~~the~~ a predetermined time period is over for processing the recycling product.

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21.   (Amended)   The system according to claim ~~19~~ 20, wherein the processing unit carries out the notification ~~with use of~~ based on a receiving date contained in ~~the~~ information indicating the receiving date of the recycling product.

22.   (Amended)   The system according to claim 21, wherein the processing unit ~~indicates the recycling product as a non-recycling product~~ carries out the notification when the processing unit does not receive information as indicated from a third processing server managed by a third processing organization that carries out a process following a second processing organization, even though the predetermined time period is over the receiving date contained in the information.

23.   (Amended)   A method of calculating a processing fee expended on processes related to recycling a used product using a recycling certificate management system connected with a plurality of recycling processing computers through a network, the recycling certificate management system managing a processing state of the recycling product, the method comprising:

receiving information indicating that a second recycling organization manages the recycling product moving from a first recycling processing organization to a second recycling processing organization for processing the recycling product following the first recycling processing organization and the second recycling processing organization managing a second recycling processing computer from a first recycling processing computer, among the plurality of recycling processing

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computers receiving the recycling product containing identifying information for identifying the recycling product;

calculating a recycling fee for a processing carried out by the first and second recycling processing ~~organization~~ organizations based on a recycle certificate having the identifying information and a processing content ~~by the first recycling processing organization~~ which represents a purchase of recycling services, and processing information of settling accounts to the calculated recycling fee.

24.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 23, wherein the recycling certificate system is connected, through the network, to a sales organization server managed by a sales organization for selling ~~a~~ the recycle certificate storing the identifying information attached to the recycling product, wherein the recycling certificate system receives the identifying information transmitted from the sales organization server and fee information indicating the recycling processing fee of the recycling product, wherein the calculating of the recycling fee is carried out based on . the fee information.

25.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 23, further comprising extracting information related to the recycling product ~~as a non-recycling product~~ when a predetermined time period is over for processing the recycling product.

27.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 25, wherein the extracting information extracts information related to the recycling product using a receiving date contained in the information indicating the receiving date of the recycling product.

28.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 27, wherein the extracting information related to the recycling product as a non-recycling product is carried out when a processing unit does not receive information as indicated from a third processing server managed by a third processing organization that carries out a process following a second processing organization, even though the predetermined time period is over the receiving date contained in the information.